

Sept. 10, 1963

NSC REFERRAL NOT REQUIRED

Mr. President;

How much longer is our government going to support the DIEM regime in So. Vietnam..? I like many other people was shocked to learn of Diem's "secret police" action against the people of Vietnam. Supported by the C.I.A. funds, that is used against a defenceless people, instead of the real enemy.

The more I read and see of the "muddle" the worse it becomes, if it is "our war" then our government should take complete control.

Ambassador Lodge can understand this after studying the Chang "reform" in China for many years, I do not wish to ~~like~~ in the past, however we should learn of our mistakes from past history. live

In my mind Diem is a modern, (Ivan the Terrible) his sister-in-law (Marie Antonette) and his younger brother (Rasputin).

How horrible that our government supports such a few, and suppresses so many as the case in So. Vietnam.

I know that this is not our true policy in Asia or elsewhere, those responsible for such action should be replaced in the Diem government, by force if necessary.

And a American Military Government installed until free elections can be carried out.

It is a strange War indeed where there is two fronts, and for every victory in the field there is a set back at the home front.

It is like walking on a tread-mill, with no end in sight, there must be an answer,

It was most gratifying to learn of the ~~the~~ integration of public schools in the state of Alabama.

It is my sincere hope that congress will approve of the "Test Ban" Treaty, for we owe it ourselves and those yet to come.

DeMille

Thomson

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EDITORIAL PAGE

'Sort Of Gets You Right Here, Doesn't It?'



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Civil Rites In Alabama



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Rows Behind The News

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EDITORIAL PAGE

"We Could Try Grilled American Au Jus"

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Disgracing US Dollar

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It is an appalling fact that America has given trucks to South Viet Nam which are being used to haul off to concentration camps Buddhist demonstrators and student sympathizers with the freedom of religion.

The president's brother, Ngo Dinh Nhu, and his wife are diverting American aid to Soviet Viet Nam into a program of brutal religious oppression. The intent of our aid is to help combat the Communist led and armed Viet Cong.

None too soon we are considering a drastic cut in the \$1.5 million a day we have been pouring into the country.

It is true we should not use our money as a black-jack to force nations into our camp. But freedom is a condition of universal decency. Freedom to worship as a man chooses involves the dignity of man everywhere and we cannot allow ourselves to become collaborators with those who would destroy all that America hopes to represent and in large measure does represent.

The default of South Viet Nam to the Communists is, of course, unthinkable. But it requires consummate gall to take our equipment for use in a gory and primitive suppression of freedom. The suppressors are hardly better than the Communists and as givers we have every right to require that our gift shall carry the minimum conditions of humanity.

We have been having a hard enough time keeping fanatical American racists from tearing up our Bill Of Rights. We do not have to finance a foreign power to do the job.

Diem Has Lost All Claim Upon World Confidence

The dawn is coming up like thunder these days across the China Sea in Saigon where the autocratic government of President Ngo Dinh Diem continues to hold power by turning United States supplied weapons and aid — shipped to fight Communism — against the people of South Viet Nam themselves.

We are in a very untenable position.

In the last decade we have spent nearly \$3 billion to strengthen South Vietnamese defenses against Communism and at present we are spending almost \$2 million a day.

Yet President Diem keeps our ambassador, Henry Cabot Lodge, cooling his heels for four days before he will see him and listen to US protests against the Diem government's atrocities upon Buddhists.

Meantime the rebellion within South Viet Nam becomes more and more pronounced and this greatly weakens internal defenses against encroaching Communism from the north; and while no one wants Diem to continue in office, he has a death hold on it.

In effect we find ourselves in the position of "fighting" two wars simultaneously — against the raiding Communists in the north and Diem and his intractable family.

We are encouraging in any way we can the replacement of Diem as the seat of power and apparently our choice for his successor is Tran Van Chuong, who resigned recently as ambassador to the United States in protest against Diem's policies against the people.

President John F. Kennedy indicates this sub rosa ambition in his statement that changes in policy are essential in South Viet Nam and "perhaps in personnel". He warns the war against Communism cannot be won unless the Diem government makes a greater effort to win popular support and Diem's way of winning this support is to institute martial law and order his troops to shoot to kill at any Buddhist demonstration.

If a coup develops against Diem it will be fathered by Diem. Oppression always breeds revolt and there is revolt in South Viet Nam where there is prattle about freedom but where freedom is licensed.

Our discomfort is that we happen to be engaged in an important struggle to save Asia from marauding Communism. Viet Nam is a key-stone in this struggle. Diem has lost all claim upon the world's confidence.

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Overload



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